

REMARKS

Claims 50-52, 56 and 58-60 are pending in this application, of which claims 50 and 60 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

The Examiner has objected to claim 60 for an informality which has been corrected in the aforementioned amendments.

Claims 50, 52, 58 and 59 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Knowles et al. (hereinafter "**Knowles et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Knowles et al. discloses an automatic hand-supportable code symbol scanning device with improved laser beam pointing efficiency.

Figs. 1-2B clearly show that the grip of the optical reader does not extend beyond a lateral side of the stand member, in contrast to the present invention as shown in Fig. 65A.

Accordingly, claim 50 has been amended to recite this distinction.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 51, 56 and 60 have been allowed.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 50-52, 56 and 58-60, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP



William L. Brooks
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/mla
Atty. Docket No. 960569C
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE